

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.(currently amended) A process of installing segmented underpinning piles for supporting a structure upon the earth comprising the steps of driving a first pile segment a distance into unexcavated earth, said first pile segment having a cylindrical configuration and an end extending out of the earth having a first cooperating element affixed on said end for engaging and interlocking with a second cooperating element affixed on a second pile segment having a cylindrical configuration in the absence of a connecting cable between said pile segments,

fully engaging said first and second cooperating elements to seat said second pile segment onto said first pile segment to thereby provide lateral stability of the interlocked pile segments; and

driving said second pile segment another distance into the earth.

2.(currently amended) The process according to claim 1, prior to said driving step further comprising the steps of: of removing a volume of earth from beneath a portion of the structure; positioning said first pile segment below said portion of said structure; and placing a jack between said first pile segment and said portion of said structure.

3.(currently amended) The process according to claim 1 wherein an adhesive is applied between ~~[[sad]]~~ said cooperating elements.

4.(original) The process according to claim 3 wherein said adhesive comprises an epoxy.

5.(original) The process according to claim 1 wherein one of said cooperating elements comprises an extension and the other said cooperating element comprises a depression.

6.(currently amended) A process of installing segmented underpinning piles for supporting a structure upon the earth ~~comprises~~ comprising the steps of removing a volume of earth from beneath a portion of the structure, positioning a first pile segment having a cylindrical configuration below said portion of said structure, placing a jack between said first pile segment and said portion of said structure, driving a first pile segment a distance into unexcavated earth said first pile segment having an end extending out of the earth, said end having a first cooperating element affixed on said end for engaging and interlocking with a second cooperating element affixed on a second pile segment, fully engaging said first and second cooperating elements to seat said second pile segment onto said first pile segment in the absence of a connecting cable between said pile segments to thereby provide lateral stability of the interlocked pile segments; and driving said second pile segment another distance into the earth.

7.(currently amended) An underpinning pile forming segment comprising a body defining a ~~generally longitudinal~~ cylindrical configuration, having a first end and a second end, said first end comprising a cooperating element affixed on said first end for engaging and interlocking with a cooperating element affixed on a first different underpinning pile and said second end comprising a cooperating element affixed on said second end for

engaging and interlocking with a cooperating element affixed on a second different underpinning pile.

8.(currently amended) An underpinning pile forming segment according to claim 7 comprising a body defining a ~~generally longitudinal~~ cylindrical configuration, having a first end and a second end, said first end comprising a cooperating extension for engaging a cooperating depression and said second end comprising a cooperating depression for engaging a cooperating extension.

9.(original) The underpinning pile forming segment according to claim 8 wherein said extension has a least one tab on a distal end thereof.

10.(currently amended) The underpinning pile forming segment according to claim 8 wherein said depression has a bottom and ~~[[a]]~~ at least one slot extending into said depression and a second slot extending annularly about said bottom of said depression into a wall of said depression.

11.(currently amended) The underpinning pile forming segment according to claim 9 wherein said depression has a bottom and ~~[[a]]~~ at least one slot extending into said depression and a second slot extending annularly about said bottom of said depression into a wall of said depression.

12. (currently amended) An underpinning pile forming segment according to claim 7 comprising a body defining a ~~generally longitudinal~~ cylindrical configuration, having a first end and a second end, said first end comprising a cooperating depression for engaging a cooperating extension and said second end comprising a cooperating depression for engaging a cooperating extension.

13.(currently amended) An underpinning pile comprising a first segment defining a ~~generally longitudinal~~ cylindrical configuration, having a first end and a second end, said first end comprising a cooperating extension cooperatively engaged with a cooperating depression of a second segment.